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OFFICIAL ACTION ON
TABLES OF CONTENTS VERSUS PERIODICAL ABSTRACTS
OF SOVIET SCIENTIFIC PERIODICALS

2 April 1947 "Periodical Abstracts" initiated, covering all fields.

6 August 1947 Periodical Abstracts (Scientific) first issued as a separate volume.

26 December 1947 PRC approved a project for a complete bibliography of Soviet periodicals to be undertaken by OO to fulfill ORE requirements ~~(bibliography of Soviet periodicals to be undertaken by OO to fulfill ORE requirements~~ (bibliography to consist of translation of tables of contents of all Soviet periodicals, including scientific and technical, received in CIA).

14 January 1948 Requirements received from ORE.

12 May 1948 First "Bibliographies" issued (delay due to arguments about FDD's capabilities, priorities, etc.). Published as an unclassified publication without indication of CIA origin.

June 1948 /State Department said to have requested "Bibliographies": memo not found/

5 April 1949 Reproduction and dissemination of the FDD Bibliographies by the Library of Congress (as part of their Monthly List of Russian Accessions) authorized by the Executive of CIA.

18 April 1949 Official arrangement with the Library of Congress signed by the DCI (FDD to provide typewritten drafts of translated tables of contents to the Library of Congress. This system continued until 23 February 1950, see below) publication of separate "Bibliographies" by CIA/FDD suspended.

30 November 1949
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23 February 1950 PRC turns down OCD proposal, and indicates that the Monthly List is of general public interest rather than "an intelligence function that CIA would be obligated to perform."

24 February 1950 Executive of CIA officially informs Librarian of Congress that:

25X1A a. demands on our linguists are such that "we must cease providing translations as of this date."

Late 1950 Question was raised whether Periodical Abstracts (Scientific) best served the purposes of scientific intelligence consumers and OSI was asked to survey the Scientific Intelligence Committee to find out.

26 December 1950 OSI reports to AD/O

"The members of the SIC have indicated unanimously that a translated list of titles of all scientific and technical items in Russian periodicals would be preferable to the publication 'Periodical Abstracts.' The agencies represented in this agreement are: Army, Navy, Air Force, AEC and CIA."

18 January 1951 FDD suspends publication of Periodical Abstracts on 18 January 1951 with issue No. 166.

8 February 1951 Chief, Intelligence Division, for AC of S-G-2, Department of Army, objects to discontinuance of Periodical Abstracts, saying:

"Although it has been stated that a 'Title' list will be published covering generally the same material formerly covered by the

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'Periodical Abstracts,' it is felt that the interests of G-2 cannot be served adequately by this substitution. Likewise, the intelligence interests of the Technical Services of the Department of the Army are not adequately supplied by such a 'Title' list."

Says ONI and A-2 also want abstracts on electronics.

9 February 1951

AD/O sends AD/SI a study on "Publication of Tables of Contents of Soviet Periodicals" with enormous lists and appendices, showing that:

a. Total of 87 Soviet periodicals of value to scientific intelligence are received in U.S.

b. Translations of tables of contents of 80 of these being published in three available English publications issued by;

1. Brookhaven National Laboratory
2. Army Medical Library

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c. These three publications don't present material in most convenient form, and don't use standard transliteration system, but titles are well-translated.

d. Possible solutions to "table of contents" needs;

1. Wider dissemination of three publications above.
2. Reassembly, retransliteration, publication and dissemination of these three in a more convenient form (could be done by OSI or FDD).
3. Publication by FDD (independently) of a more standardized "table of contents"—would require three linguists.

17 February 1951

AD/CD replies to G-2, saying Periodical Abstracts will be resumed and a survey of IAC agencies will be undertaken to see what they want in the way of abstracts, title lists, etc.

23 February 1951

FDD resumes publication of Periodical Abstracts with issue No. 167.

5 April 1951

AD/CD officially asks IAC agencies what they want, outlining the background of the problem (Appendix A), indicating present form of exploitation and possible alternatives (Appendix B). Specifically requests survey of all scientific and technical units in each Agency and of consumers under any "secondary dissemination."

"a. Whether our present methods of exploitation are satisfactory and should be continued unchanged.

b. What changes in these present methods would make them fulfill the needs of a majority of the using agencies more adequately.

c. What additional methods should be undertaken (within personnel limitations) to meet the unfulfilled common needs of more than one using agency.

d. Which of the alternative methods of exploitation should be undertaken at the expense of present activities (i.e., whether publication of a "Title List" should be substituted for "Periodical Abstracts," or whether they should both be dropped and the effort expended on Other types of exploitation as indicated in Appendix B."

30 April 1951

G-2 replies that "present methods of exploitation are satisfactory and should be continued unchanged." Lists subject fields to be covered by Periodical Abstracts

1 May 1951

ONI replies that:

a. any modification should be in the direction of "fulfilling requests for specific subject searches and translations."

b. publication of tables of contents would be a duplication, but FDD should perhaps cover the few titles not included in listings from Brookhaven, etc.

c. Periodical Abstracts should be continued.

19 June 1951

State replies that it is not a "user," since it has no scientific units as such, but that it:

a. gets the Soviet periodicals for everyone.

b. believes that research and industrial needs should be served as well as intelligence needs.

c. suggests greater use of Chemical Abstracts and similar services or possible public dissemination of FDD abstracts perhaps through Office of Technical Services (Commerce).

9 August 1951

AEC replies that "present method of exploitation of foreign documents is satisfactory to us."

17 October 1951

A-2 replies that present methods are satisfactory, no changes or additional methods seem to be necessary, Periodical Abstracts should be continued. Also lists fields which Periodical Abstracts should cover. Says Air Targets Division has special requirements, and would like part of the effort now spent on Periodical Abstracts used for preparing "short well-documented reports on specialized subjects in response to specific requests."

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PART II - Events and Projects related directly or indirectly to the Periodical Abstracts problems.

6 May 1948 Informal arrangement between FDD and Chemical Abstracts to avoid duplication in abstracting.

30 December 1948 Upgrading of classification of material from Soviet publications. Periodical Abstracts (Scientific) made SECRET on cover; individual cards not classified when cut up and separated from cover.

4 November 1949 Meeting between OSI and OO/FDD on abstracting problems (as a result of OSI publication of a paper "Abstracting services as an intelligence tool for assessing Soviet chemical research"—which said that a time-lag of 9 to 17 months between appearance of an article and its English abstracting did not matter). Decision reached that:

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b. OSI divisions to supply FDD with lists of journals to be covered by FDD.

13 January 1950

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OSI Project [] approved. Information to be developed from Soviet periodicals and semi-evaluated by individual abstractors. (Project was continued in 1951, but it is believed to have had inadequate results and to have been discontinued).

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23 October 1951

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[] OSI, informally presents paper to AD/O on "Russian Overt Material and the way to its maximum exploitation" indicating that present methods are completely unsatisfactory and proposing a Center, staffed with qualified DP's and defectors to study the literature and produce summaries and semi-evaluated studies. Paper discussed by Chief, FDD and returned to [] for presentation to AD/SI and possible presentation of a project.

Early fall 1951

Librarian of Congress proposes to DCI:

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a. Change in format of Monthly List—to include subject, indexing and translation of titles of tables of contents—new arrangement to cover 200 periodicals.

b. Reorganization of Slavic Union Catalogue—to include translated book titles and new cards.

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c. More comprehensive coverage of participating libraries holdings of Soviet literature.

10 October 1951

OSI publishes CIA/SI 77-SI "A Listing of Russian Periodic Publications since 1939" (including lists of political, historical and other non-scientific categories of serial publications).

29 October 1951

AD/O suggests that OSI should coordinate such efforts with FDD and says Library of Congress just covered the same field, listing 6000 titles in "Serial Publications of the USSR."

4 December 1951

AD/SI replies that the publication was started by [] while working in FDD and finished after his transfer to OSI. Adds that it doesn't really duplicate the Library of Congress Listing, and that the latter had only 3,349 titles, the other "entries representing very good cross-referencing."

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Around or before
1 January 1952

DCI approves Library of Congress project: [redacted]
[redacted] (New format and arrangement of Monthly List
to appear with March issue which will probably come out on 1 April!)
Economic Intelligence Committee backed the project; OCD Librarian to
monitor it.

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Date 7 Mar 57

[illegible]

REMARKS: 1. Attached history of the quarter of a man "project" more formally known as Bibliographies in Translation of Tables of Contents) is provided as background for discussion with [redacted] OSI.

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2. Could not find out more about Mr. [redacted] - but he's had access to FBI [redacted]
3. Believe that the OO position at the meeting should be:
 - a) 80 of 87 letters are already covered by non-CIA Publications; satisfactory to the IAC.